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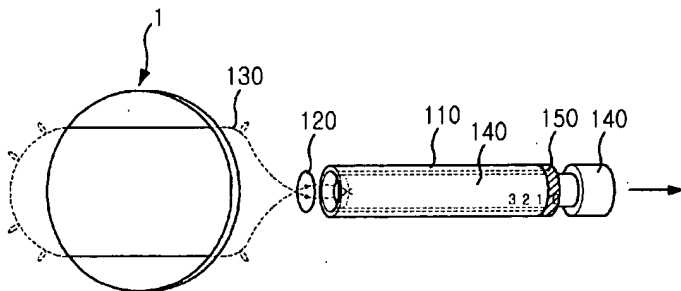
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(54) Title: **WOUND CLOSURE ASSISTING AND MAINTAINING APPARATUS**



(57) Abstract: Provided is a wound closure assisting and maintaining apparatus that can be attached to a wide open wound of a patient and can stretch skin around the wound gradually to achieve the wound closure and maintain the wound closure during most critical postoperative period. The apparatus includes: a loop suture being threaded through skin; a tightening member for gathering both ends of the threaded loop suture at one point and for exerting a pressure of wound tightening force evenly on skin; a pulling member for

pulling the loop suture in order to tighten the threaded loop suture; a housing member for housing the pulling member and making the loop suture tightened by transformation of a pulling force to a wound tightening force when pulling member pulls the loop suture out of skin; and a locking member for fixing a position of the pulling member to maintain the tightened status.

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